

MINUTES
Town of Marshall Board of Alderman
Regular Meeting
December 19, 2022
6:00 p.m.

In attendance were Mayor Nancy Allen, Aldermen Billie Jean Haynie, Thomas Jablonski, Aileen Payne, Christiaan Ramsey and Laura Ponder Smith. Also in attendance were Town Administrator Forrest Gilliam and Attorney Larry Leake.

Mayor Allen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m..

Item 1

Upon motion by Alderman Smith, seconded by Alderman Jablonski, the Board voted 5-0 to approve the agenda as presented.

Item 2

Upon motion by Alderman Ramsey, seconded by Alderman Haynie, the Board voted 5-0 to approve the minutes from the November 21, 2022 regular meeting.

Item 3

Jessica Hocz, with Mountain Valleys Resource Conservation and Development, presented to the Board regarding funding her organization has that could assist with erosion control and signage improvements on Blannahassett Island. Discussion took place regarding the importance of using local sources for purchasing and contracting for any such project, and the need to involve students from the Madison County School System as much as possible. The Board encouraged Ms. Hocz to move forward with planning for the project and to return with a more specific plan.

Item 4

In light of the Island gym being up for sale by the County, the Madison County Board of Elections reached out to seek the Town's input regarding possible locations for the municipal election scheduled for November of 2023. The consensus of the Board was that the Marshall Volunteer Fire Department is the number one choice for a voting site unless the classroom in the gym building is for some reason still available. Mr. Gilliam will communicate the Board's preference to the Board of Elections and follow up as necessary.

Item 5

Upon motion by Alderman Haynie, seconded by Alderman Ramsey, the Board voted 5-0 to change the January, 2023 regular meeting date of the Board of Alderman to Monday, January 23 at 6:00 p.m. due to the original meeting date of the third Monday falling on the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday.

Item 6

Upon motion by Alderman Payne, seconded by Alderman Ramsey, the Board voted 5-0 to appoint Suzanne DuVall to a three-year term on the Planning Board which will begin February 1, 2023.

Upon motion by Alderman Payne, seconded by Alderman Ramsey, the Board voted 5-0 to appoint Denise Rudisill to a term on the Marshall Housing Authority Board, for a term that will expire on November 1, 2027.

Item 7

Forrest Gilliam, Town Administrator, presented the Tax Collection and Water/Sewer Collection Report for November, 2022.

A copy of the Unaccountable Water Report and Monthly Operating Report for the Town's wells from Byers Environmental was presented to the Board.

The financial report for the month of November was presented to the Board.

The Marshall Christmas Parade was held on Saturday, December 10. The parade went smoothly and was enjoyed by those in attendance. Parade entries were down from past years. Discussion took place regarding making the parade a night event and the formation of a committee around August to help plan the parade and promote participation.

Mr. Gilliam shared that he met with officers of the Downtown Marshall Association, who sponsor and organize the annual Mermaid Parade and Festival, typically held each June. The group discussed challenges related to crowd size and complaints received at Town Hall regarding safety issues with children running through a moving parade with water guns and water balloons while the street is not fully closed, and non-participants who are simply trying to drive through town getting hit by water from the parade. The Downtown Marshall Association is already working on hiring more outside security to assist the Marshall Police with crowd control, is working to improve the shuttle system from the Ingles parking lot on the bypass, and is researching the cost of lighted message boards and other means of giving advance notice that the parade will be taking place and that delays should be expected during those times. The road is not closed for the parade, but drivers who are aware of the timing may wish to take an alternate route during that time. Organizers also agreed to remove water guns/balloons from the parade itself and instead set up a kid friendly splash zone on the Island.

Mr. Gilliam provided an update on the status of repairs to Fortner Hollow Road. Repairs are complete and all invoices have been paid. Town staff will work on final reimbursements for the project from the State as well as any grant closeout paperwork.

A contractor for the North Carolina Department of Transportation is in Marshall this week to paint parking spaces and no-parking/loading zone markings following the September resurfacing project. The contractor is painting one coat to get through winter and will return in the spring for the final coat. They expect to finish their work on Wednesday.

Reports from Boards and Community Organizations

Downtown Marshall Association – No report

Board of Adjustment – No meeting

Planning Board – Met November 29th

Parks and Recreation – No meeting

Discussion took place regarding the desirability of re-instituting a Beautification Committee for the downtown area. Mr. Gilliam will work with Sherri Hill of the Parks and Recreation Committee to draft an outline of parameters for the Beautification Committee and bring that draft back to the Board of Aldermen for review.

Department Reports

Fire Department – Report is in packet.

Police Department – Report is in packet

Water Department – Jamie Chandler
Maintenance Department – Jamie Chandler
Zoning Department – Forrest Gilliam

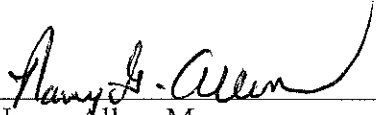
Public Comment

There was no public comment.

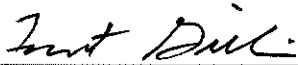
Upon motion by Alderman Haynie, seconded by Alderman Jablonski, the Board voted 5-0 to enter into closed session for the purposes of attorney-client privilege, property, and personnel.

Upon motion by Alderman Ramsey, seconded by Alderman Haynie, the Board voted 5-0 to return to open session.

Upon motion by Alderman Haynie, seconded by Alderman Jablonski, the Board voted 5-0 to adjourn at 6:55 p.m.



Nancy Allen, Mayor



Forrest Gilliam, Town Administrator

Closed Session

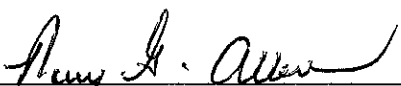
Town of Marshall Board of Aldermen

Monday, December 19, 2022

In attendance were Mayor Nancy Allen, Aldermen Billie Jean Haynie, Thomas Jablonski Aileen Payne, Christiaan Ramsey and Laura Ponder Smith. Also in attendance were Attorney Larry Leake and Town Administrator Forrest Gilliam.

Attorney-Client Privilege – Attorney Leake provided an update regarding the Gregory v. Town of Marshall suit.

No action taken.



Nancy Allen, Mayor



Forrest Gilliam, Town Clerk